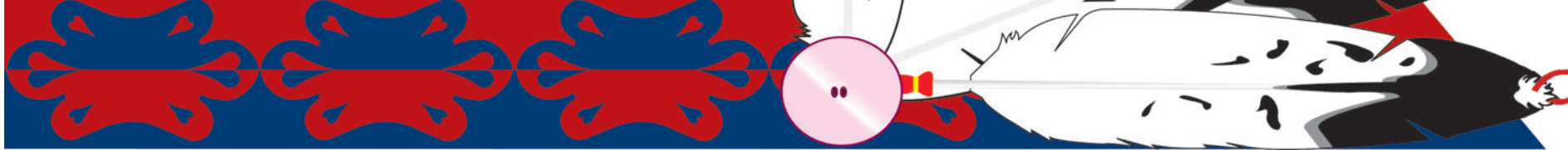


# MENOMINEE NATION NEWS



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## Menominee Nation hosts 38th annual contest powwow

**Trilby Beauprey McIntosh, NACR**  
*Menominee Nation News*

The 38th annual contest powwow held on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Keshena, Wisconsin began with the 5th annual youth olympics and Menominee stock car meet and greet on Thursday, August 5, 2004.

The registration and opening eagle staff ceremony and grand entry for the first dance exhibitions and singing competition of the powwow began Friday, August 6 and was scheduled through Sunday, August 8.

The Creator was kind to the Land of the Menominee and surrounding areas...the evening air was warm. The tree tops in the Woodland Bowl swayed ever so gently in the evening breeze. The sun, that once warmed up the Woodland Bowl was setting behind the trees-cooling off the Bowl.

The grand entry on Friday was not scheduled to begin until 7:00 p.m. yet people arrived early - well before the event. Experienced powwow attendees, in particular, came prepared with comfortable lounge chairs, tent shelters against the anticipated hot sun of the upcoming days and sustenance in the form of beverages and Native American culinary specialties like fry bread, Indian tacos and pockets of fry bread with food.

Families with small children and strollers carefully made their way down the top steps leading down to the main dance floor of the Woodland Bowl in Keshena, Wisconsin.

Jingles from dance regalia could be heard as dancers found their place among the bleachers in the Woodland Bowl. Dancers could be seen throughout the arena dressing in their dance regalia. A young youth sang a drum song as he dressed for grand entry. Drum groups also took their place around the outer circle of the dance floor.

The anticipation and preparation before the powwow merely fueled the excitement in anticipation of the 38th Annual Menominee Nation Contest Powwow of Friday, August 6 through Sunday, August



*T. Beauprey McIntosh/NACPJ/MNN*

**The 38th annual contest powwow held August 6-8, 2004 for the Menominee Indian Tribe featured fancy, traditional, jingle and grass dancers in the beautiful Woodland Bowl in Keshena, Wisconsin. Over 375 dancers were registered to dance in the dance competitions.**

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Thanks to the diligence and quick wit of master of ceremonies, Joey Besaw and Mark Denning the powwow announcements and attention to detail were interspersed with humor. As Joey helped with testing the sound system he announced, "Testing, 1,2, 3" and added, "That's as high as I can count." There was a round of laughter.

Veterans of the Menominee Nation and guests, such as the Mohican Band of Veterans and Menominee American Legion Post 497 and others also arrived early. It would be the Veterans who would lead all dancers in the grand entry ceremony.

Also leading the grand entry were Lead male dancer, David *Nahwahquaw* Grignon and lead female dancer, Darla Dick.

Powwows are times to gather and visit with relations and friends. Especially so,

if a tribal member has been absent from the reservation for a time.

The powwow's invocation was given by Apesanahkwat, former Menominee Tribal Chairman. Dressed in dance regalia he announced, "I am home visiting this beautiful land." His invocation was presented in the Menominee language and following shared with everybody he had spoken to the Creator in thanksgiving for the Veterans for caring in the flag. Apesanahkwat also asked the Creator to protect the well-being of the troops and to bring them home safely to their families. He remembered the elders, those in jail and called upon the spirits and asked for all these things.

One dance, the Crow Hop was announced as an inter-tribal dance where the audience is invited to join in the dance. specially heartwarming were the handshakes exchanged between dancers. Dancers involved in competition would be

accumulating points for the Friday events. A mother preparing her toddler for their part in the toddler competition could be heard encouraging her young one, "Dance hard now, hey?" Other parents encouraged their children by saying, "Dance!" Also touching was to see grandparent and Veteran Alan Caldwell hold his grandchild in his arms at the rim of the dance floor and dance in place as he shared the event with his grandchild.

Young and old danced together and little ones who tired reached arms upward to be lifted up into Grandpa's arms.

People came from far away places as evidenced by the license plates from Texas, Illinois, Ojibwe Nation-Lac du Flambeau, Minnesota, New York, Michigan-Ojibwa Tribe, Ontario, Canada, Oneida Nation, Iowa, West Virginia, Ohio and Indiana. Master of Ceremonies, Joey

*See POWWOW on pg. 4*

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